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To the student and members of the legal profession, the chapter relating to Prizes Courts, their Jurisdiction and Proceeding, together with the digest in the appendix of some of the more important cases, will be of special interest.

American Practice Reports. Vol. 1. Editor-in-Chief, Charles A. Ray. Washington Law Book Co., Washington, D. C., 1899. Pp. 726.

This initial volume of a series of reports is significant of a possible movement in American law practice, which may go even further than did the establishment of the New York code and the many subsequent codes of practice of the other States. The attitude of lawyers to-day is most favorable to a greater simplification of the methods of pleading and court practice, and hence a book which by compilation shows the most recent constructions of settled principles of pleading and practice is certain to suggest a still further elimination of unnecessary provisions. The value of reports of this kind is without question both for the admitted practitioner and the embryonic student of the law. The preface of Editor Ray (whose ability and reputation as Chief Justice of Indiana are acknowledged to be of the highest order) presents interesting data, showing that the average length of lawsuits in this country is from eighteen months to six years, and that no less than 38 per cent. of reversed cases, are reversed not on questions affecting the merits of the case, but on points of procedure. These are remarkable figures and their existence is certainly not evidence of the speedy administration of justice. Justice even from human agencies should come nearer infallibility than this. While the Practice Reports will be of value to both judges and lawyers as a guide and time-saver of tremendous importance, yet it stills appears as if its greatest influence would be in inducing a further reformation both of common law and code-practice. This will not be in the immediate future, in all probability, but should occur with the increasing volumes of these reports showing conclusively the many unnecessary and injurious requirements of latter-day procedure. Not the least impressive aspect of these works is the fact that almost without exception, the justices of the courts of last resort of this country have applauded and endorsed the publication, and lent to it their aid and support.

The Law of Pleading under the Codes of Civil Procedure, with an introduction briefly explaining the Common Law and Equity Systems of Pleading, and an analytical index, in which is given the code provisions as to Pleading in each of the States which has adopted the reform procedure. Second Edition. By Edwin E. Bryant, Dean of Law Faculty, University of Wisconsin. Little, Brown & Co., 1899. Cloth, pp. 400.

The title of the book as given above fully explains the scope of the work, which is as the author points out in the preface "intended rather as introductory to than a substitute for the more elaborate and exhaustive treatises on the Law of Pleading." Thus to the student intending to practice in a code State who wishes to obtain an elementary knowledge of the radical differences between common law and code pleading on which to build a foundation for the more elaborate study of code procedure, this little work will be of great value, in fact invaluable. This fact, together with the highest testimony of its true worth, has been demonstrated by its adoption as the elementary text book on code procedure by many of the leading Law schools in the country.

Commentaries on the Law of Private Corporations. By Seymour D. Thompson, LL.D. Bancroft-Whitney Co., San Francisco, 1899. Seven Volumes. Vol. II.

A supplementary volume containing recent decisions from 1895 to 1899, and also a general index of the whole work.